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Majority Rules—Let The People Decide Initiative (Proposition 105)

The Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board opposes the adoption of Proposition 105, Majority Rules—Let the People Decide.

The Majority Rule Initiative will weaken the rule of the majority on ballot initiatives that would raise taxes, fees and/or spending. It does this by requiring that any such initiative obtain approval by a majority of registered voters, not just those voting in an election. This effectively allows every registered voter not voting to be counted as a “no” vote. The result is that an initiative raising revenue or spending could not pass at all if less than 50% of voters turn out, and would have to obtain as much as 83% of the vote in a General Election in which voter turnout was 60% (it typically averages between 45% and 65%).

By counting non-voters as “no” votes, Proposition 105 overturns the concept of representative democracy by majority rule and, instead gives the power to deny revenue or spending increases to a minority of the electorate that may not represent the will of the people. The result is that government could no longer be enhanced to provide public initiated benefits, such as the investment in early childhood development and health, even when a large majority of those voting favored it.

Further, Proposition 105 is discriminatory in that it does not require all initiatives to attain the same high standard of votes.

Approved by vote of the Board:

September 24, 2008

Nadine Mathis Basha, Chairperson, on Behalf of the Board